

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 50th Legislature (2005)

HOUSE BILL 1594

By: McPeak

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to public health and safety; establishing the Prescription Drug Access for Seniors Task Force; providing for appointments; providing for qualifications; providing for meetings and staffing; providing for reimbursement for travel; providing for purpose; requiring certain report; providing for codification; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6001 of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created to continue until January 1, 2006, the Prescription Drug Access for Seniors Task Force.

1. The Task Force shall consist of sixteen (16) members.

2. Of the sixteen members:

a. four shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives as follows:

(1) one shall be an independent pharmacist,

(2) one shall represent senior citizens,

(3) one shall be a member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives and shall serve as cochair, and

(4) one shall be the administrator of a county health department,

b. four shall be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the State Senate as follows:

(1) one shall represent a statewide organization of health benefit managers,

- (2) one shall be a practicing pharmacist,
- (3) one shall be a member of the Oklahoma State Senate and shall serve as cochair, and
- (4) one shall be the director of a county human services office,

c. three shall be appointed by the Governor as follows:

- (1) one shall represent a statewide organization of health insurers,
- (2) one shall represent a statewide pharmacist organization or the pharmaceutical industry, and
- (3) one shall be a representative of a community mental health center, and

d. five shall be public sector representatives or their designees as follows:

- (1) the Director of the Department of Human Services,
- (2) the Chief Executive Officer of the Oklahoma Health Care Authority,
- (3) the Executive Director of the Board of Pharmacy,
- (4) the Commissioner of the State Department of Health, and
- (5) the Insurance Commissioner.

B. 1. Appointed members of the Task Force shall serve at the pleasure of their appointing authority.

2. A vacancy on the Task Force shall be filled by the original appointing authority.

C. 1. A majority of the members present at a meeting shall constitute a quorum to do business.

2. The Department of Human Services and the Oklahoma Health Care Authority shall provide staff support for the Task Force.

D. The Task Force may divide into subcommittees in furtherance of its purposes.

E. Members of the Task Force shall receive no compensation but shall be reimbursed for necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties pursuant to the provisions of the State Travel Reimbursement Act as follows:

1. Legislative members of the task force shall be reimbursed in accordance with the provisions of Section 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and

2. Nonlegislative members of the task force shall be reimbursed by their appointing authorities.

F. The purpose of the Task Force shall be to make recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor regarding ways to improve access to prescription drugs for senior citizens by:

1. Examining strategies employed by other states and their political subdivisions to improve access to prescription drugs;

2. Examining the impact of drug manufacturer discount programs;

3. Identifying federal initiatives designed to assist senior citizens with the cost of prescription medicines;

4. Identifying and quantifying the impact of federal mandates that take effect in the year 2006, and

5. Identifying other issues deemed appropriate by the Task Force.

G. The Task Force shall issue a report of its recommendations to the Legislature and Governor no later than January 1, 2006.

SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

50-1-5200

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01/19/05